

doubt assisted by the action of infertility. In a population which is increasing in numbers but slowly, fertility is almost balanced by infertility. If we cast our eyes round the circle of our acquaintances how many are the families we shall find to be verging upon extinction after perhaps a transient burst of fecundity. Infertility very speedily disembarrasses a race of an admixture of alien blood that is of lower reproductive vitality or is unsuited to the local environment. The immigrant strain may for a time revolutionize society by setting up an eddy of abnormal activity, or by the introduction of new arts or ideas. The survival of foreign elements may from time to time be disclosed by the birth of exceptional individuals. whose character approximates more closely to that of other races than to that of their own. But as time advances, the occurrence of these irregularities will become rarer, until the blended race settles down into homogeneity. These reflections assist us in understanding how a race may retain its peculiar character although it has interbred with alien immigrants, or may revert to its ancient type after temporary bursts of eccentricity caused by the admixture of alien blood. Infertility, it may be added, contributes to the levelling effect of marriage in preventing a race from improving itself by the breeding of men of talent, or "supermen." Persons of exceptional talents are not as a rule of prepotent

reproductive  
fertility. and it is upon less abnormal  
individuals  
that the race depends for the  
continuity of its  
existence.

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The earliest of our historical records  
are concerned with little else than wars of  
invasion. and  
there is no reason why we should  
believe that  
these movements of population only  
commenced